



#7
P. Allen
10/09/02

[17306/101]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : George Nelson BLISS et al.
Serial No. : 09/849,006
Filing Date : May 4, 2001
For : APPARATUS FOR RELEASING ITEMS WITHIN A CONFINED SPACE
Group Art Unit : 3652
Examiner : Paul T. Chin

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on September 23, 2002.

By: Clifford A. Ulrich (Reg. No. 42,194)

GROUP 3600

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

SIR:

This paper addresses the Office Action dated July 22, 2002.

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that the present application includes claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- Species 1: the species of Figures 1 to 4;
- Species 2: the species of Figures 5 and 12;
- Species 3: the species of Figures 6, 7 and 11;
- Species 4: the species of Figures 8 to 10; and
- Species 5: the species of Figure 13.

The Examiner has required Applicants to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits.

Applicants provisionally elect species 1, i.e., the species of Figures 1 to 4, for prosecution on the merits. It is submitted that the following claims correspond to Figures 1 to 4: 1 to 10, 12 to 22 and 24. The Office Action indicates that claims 1 and 13 are generic. It is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 12, 18 and 24 are also generic.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Clifford A. Ulrich
Reg. No. 42,194

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26646

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



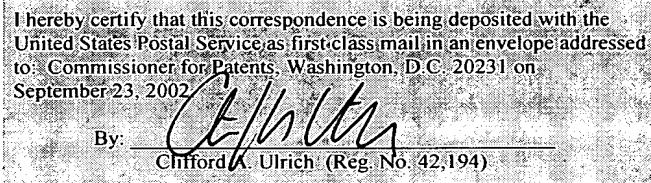
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



TRANSMITTAL

SIR:

Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified application is a Response to Restriction Requirement.

Applicant hereby requests a **one-month extension** of time for responding to the Restriction Requirement dated July 22, 2002. The extended period for response expires on **September 23, 2002**. Please charge the **\$110.00** extension fee and any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of **Kenyon & Kenyon**, deposit account number **11-0600**. A duplicate of this Transmittal is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Dated: September 23, 2002
By: Clifford A. Ulrich (Reg. No. 42,194)

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